

SENATE BILL 3702

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
relative to internet use in public and private
schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 2, is amended by
adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§49-1-221.

(a)(1) Every two (2) years, each director of schools shall file with the
commissioner of education an acceptable use policy, approved by the local school
board, for the international network of computer systems commonly known as the
internet. At a minimum, the policy shall contain provisions that:

(A) Are designed to prohibit use by school district employees and
students of the school district's computer via the internet;

(B) Seek to prevent access by students to material that the school district
deems to be harmful to juveniles;

(C) Select a technology for the school district's computers having internet
access to filter or block internet access through such computers to child
pornography and obscenity;

(D) Establish appropriate measures to be taken against persons who
violate the policy;

(E) Include a component on internet safety for students that is integrated
in a school district's instructional program; and

(F) Encourage that communications with parents which raise awareness about internet safety are made using existing avenues of communication, such as parent-teacher conferences.

(2) The policy may include such other terms, conditions, and requirements as deemed appropriate, such as requiring written parental authorization for Internet use by juveniles or differentiating acceptable uses among elementary, middle and high school students.

(b) The director of schools shall take such steps as appropriate to implement and enforce the school district's policy.

(c) On or before December 1, 2008, and biennially thereafter, the commissioner of education shall submit a report to the chairman of the education committees of the senate and the house of representatives which summarizes the acceptable use policies filed with the commissioner pursuant to this section and the status thereof.

(d) In addition to the foregoing requirements regarding public school internet use policies, the principal or other chief administrator of all category 1-3, non-public schools, approved by the department of education shall select a technology for such school's computers having internet access to filter or block internet access through such computers to child pornography.

(e) The commissioner of education shall issue guidelines to school districts regarding instructional programs related to internet safety. Within forty-five (45) days of the effective date of this act, the commissioner shall issue a memorandum advising school districts of the provisions on this section and encourage cooperation with local law enforcement agencies in its implementation.

(f) The attorney general shall work with the department of education to assist local school districts in developing their own methods for teaching internet safety to

elementary and secondary students, as well as parents, which are within the guidelines established by the department of education.

(g) The attorney general shall also work with the department of education to establish best practices for teaching internet safety and make those best practices and other resources, including sample curricula on internet safety, available to public and private schools throughout Tennessee.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.